

## New and Improved: Roadway Construction Moving Forward

Crews are paving the new roadway on North Tryon Street. The work is happening outside of the existing travel lanes to provide room for the BLE to be constructed in the middle of North Tryon Street. Between the I-85 Connector and Old Concord Road, the new roadway alignment is particularly visible.

Near UNC Charlotte's main campus, crews have paved the new southbound North Tryon Street lanes between Barton Creek Drive and J.W. Clay Boulevard. Southbound traffic has been switched to the new pavement and northbound traffic switched to the former southbound pavement. This traffic shift provides crews with the space needed to begin construction of the underpass where the BLE will travel beneath the northbound North Tryon Street travel lanes and enters the campus. As roadway construction continues, be prepared for traffic to shift periodically.

Sidewalk is being constructed in conjunction with curb and gutter operations. A portion of permanent sidewalk is open between Barton Creek Drive and Grove Lake Drive. Where permanent sidewalk has not been completed, temporary pedestrian paths have been installed.

Driveway construction and asphalt paving will cause periodic interruptions to traffic. For the longevity and quality of the asphalt and concrete, it is important that large portions are completed at once. Crews working on driveway construction will make an effort to minimize the impact to businesses by working at night, pouring driveways one-half at a time, closing driveways temporarily or redirecting traffic to another driveway, if possible.

During roadway construction, please be mindful of pedestrian paths, relocated bus stops, and access changes to businesses. Slow down and stay alert for direction from flaggers and signage. Please contact us if you have any questions or concerns at 704-336-RIDE (7433) or visit [ridetransit.org](http://ridetransit.org)

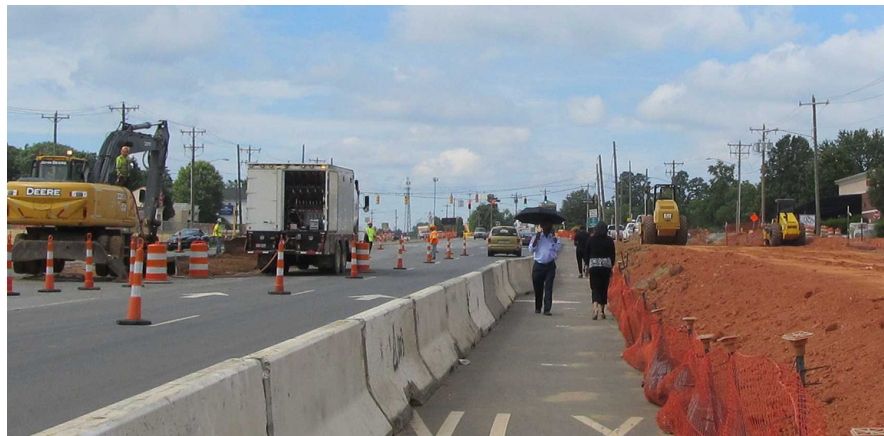
**Thank you for your continued patience as we move Charlotte forward!**



New sidewalk, curb, gutter, and pavement from Barton Creek to Grove Lake



Traffic shift to the right, BLE work to the left, J.W. Clay station in background



Temporary walkway near McCullough

# University City Area Plan Adopted

Charlotte City Council approved an update to the University City Area Plan to address changes to the future BLE transit station locations on May 11, 2015. The plan updates land use, community design, transportation, and open space policies to implement the vision for University City as a vibrant, people-oriented destination with high quality development around the transit stations along the BLE. The plan provides clear guidance for transit station areas and areas farther from the station. The policies are intended to enable transition to more transit supportive development and to be a more walkable community.

Through this process, the community came to a strong consensus of implementing the vision of the plan. A common desire is to utilize the City's zoning implementation tools to achieve the vision set forth in the plan. City staff will work directly with the Transportation and Planning Committee to develop a schedule and action plan for implementation.

The update to this plan has been in development since December 2013 and was accepted by City Council in May of this year. A series of community meetings were conducted that enabled hundreds of citizens to review and comment on the draft area plan recommendations. We thank all citizens who came out to give input!

To learn more about the University City Area Plan, visit <http://ucap.charlotteplanning.org/>



University City Area Plan public meeting

## Citizens Learn More about Northeast Corridor Infrastructure Projects



NECI & BLE public meeting

Public meetings were held May 12 and May 14, to gather input on the Northeast Corridor Infrastructure (NECI) Program. Both meetings provided presentations about BLE construction and NECI projects. Attendees got involved by placing comments on project maps and prioritizing amenities such as sidewalks, bicycles lanes, on-street parking and landscaping.

The NECI Program will create street improvements in transit station areas along the BLE. The goal of the NECI Program is to provide the community near the stations a safe and comfortable access to transit, whether they walk, bike or drive. The projects are also positioned to support economic development opportunities in accordance with the City's growth strategy. The following projects are included in the NECI Program:

- Parkwood Avenue Streetscape
- 25th Street Streetscape
- North Tryon and 36th Street Streetscape
- Philemon Street Extension
- Sugar Creek Streetscape
- Orr Road Extension
- Tom Hunter Road Streetscape
- Rocky River Road West Street Improvements
- McCullough Drive Streetscape/McCullough Drive Extension
- J.W. Clay Boulevard Streetscape

Employees from Engineering & Property Management, CATS, Planning, Charlotte Department of Transportation, and Neighborhood & Business Services attended the meetings to provide information and answer questions about projects in this area. For more information on the NECI Program visit [www.charlottefuture.com](http://www.charlottefuture.com) or call Jim Keenan at 704-336-4252.



# Pedestrian Safety

"Is it safe?" is the first asked when examining a problem and looking for a solution. The following items are vital for all pedestrians to consider, especially around construction sites of the Blue Line Extension Project where pedestrian patterns can constantly change.

- **Use a marked crosswalk.** In some cases this may mean walking additional feet to a marked location that has increased visibility and safety.
- **When a marked crosswalk is not available cross at an intersection** instead of mid-block.
- **Where permanent sidewalk has not been completed, temporary pedestrian paths have been installed.** Sometimes it is an asphalt path in a similar location to a sidewalk. Other times the path is on North Tryon pavement, protected by a barrier wall next to travel lanes and orange construction fence separating the path from the work zone.
- Pedestrians are asked to **use the temporary pedestrian paths and cross at signalized intersections.**
- **Look for cars in all directions**—including those turning left or right—before crossing the street; never assume a driver will stop.
- **Make eye contact with drivers of approaching vehicles** before and during crossing the street.
- **Enhance your visibility at night.** Walk in well-lit areas, carry a flashlight and wear something white and/or reflective, such as stickers, armbands, or a safety vest to be more visible.
- **Avoid distraction.** Do not text or talk on cell phones when crossing streets. This diminishes the ability of your two key senses—hearing and seeing—that are used to detect and avoid cars.
- Be predictable to drivers and follow the rules of the road—**obey traffic signs and signals.**
- **Cross the street where you have the best view of traffic.**
- **Always walk on the sidewalk.** If there is no sidewalk, walk facing traffic and as far from the roadway as you can.



## Stay Connected

CATS has developed tools for you to stay informed about BLE construction updates. We want to hear from you! Your feedback is important to us. Let us know your questions or comments.

Here are some ways to make your voice be heard:

**Follow us on Facebook and Twitter**



[www.facebook.com/  
CATSBLEExtensionUpdates](https://www.facebook.com/CATSBLEExtensionUpdates)



[@BLEupdates](https://twitter.com/BLEupdates)

**Register to Receive Updates**



[www.charlottefuture.com](https://www.charlottefuture.com)



New driveway apron

## A Message from the BLE Business Liaison

As you read in our construction update this month, crews are paving the new roadway along North Tryon Street. Significant sidewalk pours and driveway aprons, which are the areas between the sidewalk and the curb, have been constructed for businesses between Old Concord Road and Tom Hunter Road on the southbound side of North Tryon Street. What does this mean to you? As crews cross over driveways to pave asphalt, access to businesses will be hindered for a very short period of time (2 to 5 minutes). This also means that your customers will be able to see the physical improvements that come with the light rail.

Many businesses have inquired about the finished product of the road and sidewalk since the road is currently below grade of the curb. Crews will continue to pour asphalt layers until there is a smooth transition to the curb. When the asphalt paving and sidewalk pours are complete, you can expect North Tryon Street to be at a higher grade, with wider sidewalks (for easier pedestrian access), bike lanes and planting strips. After the new roadway is complete, crews will begin the work in the middle of North Tryon Street.

Currently, you still see a lot of orange barrels which can make finding the entrance to your business a little challenging. Communicate more than ever with your customers. Let them know you are "Open for Business." We have worked with several business owners to try to find signage solutions to mark the entry for their site. If you have suggestions, questions or comments please contact me at [jduru@charlottenc.gov](mailto:jduru@charlottenc.gov).



*Jennifer Duru*  
Neighborhood & Business Services  
LYNX Blue Line Extension Business Liaison

## WHAT SHOULD YOU DO IF YOU EXPERIENCE A UTILITY OUTAGE?

Please follow these steps immediately after an issue is discovered:

1. Notify the utility company.
2. If you believe that the BLE construction may be involved in your outage, contact City of Charlotte 3-1-1, CATS Customer Service at 704-336-RIDE (7433) or the BLE business liaison at (704) 336-5577.

Utility companies are equipped to provide emergency repairs to their services. An outage could be the result of an unplanned disruption to service, which the utility company is prepared to address for their customers.

City staff and the BLE project team will work with the utility company and contractors to resolve concerns within the project area. In order to resolve an issue in a timely manner, it is essential to report utility outages immediately. The sooner we know, the more accurate information we can gather about construction activity in the immediate area. This allows for faster resolution of the problem.

Here are some of the more common providers in the Charlotte area:

**AT&T:** 866-620-6900

**Time Warner Cable:** 877-566-4892

**Charlotte Water:** 311

**Duke Energy:** 800-PowerOn, (1-800-769-3766)

**Piedmont Natural Gas:** 800-752-7504